Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review --	)	
Conducted Emissions Limits Below 30 MHz	)	ET Docket No. 98-80
for Equipment Regulated under Parts 15	)	
and 18 of the Commission's Rules	)	

INTRODUCTION

The Information Technology Industry Council[1] (ITI) is pleased to provide the following comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 99-296, released October 18, 1999) (the "NPRM") in ET Docket No. 98-80. ITI believes that if properly implemented, the proposed rule change to use the international standard would further progress towards the goal of One Standard-One Test, Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (1-1SDoC) in product regulations. The changes will reduce costs and make advanced technology available to consumers with the least possible delay, while preserving the current high level of protection from potential conducted interference.

[1] ITI represents the leading U.S. providers of information technology products and services. Its members had worldwide revenue exceeding $440 billion in 1998. ITI members invested $15.5 billion in U.S.-based research and development in 1998 and employ more than 1.2 million people in the United States.

DISCUSSION

In the NPRM, the Commission has proposed "to adopt the international CISPR limits in place of the current FCC conducted emission standards." (NPRM at para. 24). Moreover, the Commission has proposed a transition plan that would impose the CISPR standard for any Part 15 and 18 products authorized under a grant of certification, a Declaration of Conformity, or verification one year from the date of publication in the Federal Register, and on all products imported or manufactured on or after three years from the date of publication in the Federal Register (regardless of when such products were first authorized under the rules).

ITI generally supports this proposal. Many ITI member companies design products for the international marketplace. CISPR Publication 22 has become the international standard for controlling electromagnetic interference from information technology equipment (ITE). Under the current FCC Rules, Section 15.107(e)[2], a manufacturer has the option of using the CISPR 22

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[2] (e) As an alternative to the conducted limits shown in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, digital devices may be shown to comply with the standards contained in the First Edition of CISPR Pub. 22 (1985), "Limits and Methods of Measurement of Radio Interference Characteristics of Information Technology Equipment," and the associated Draft International Standards (DISs) adopted in 1992 and published by the International Electrotechnical Commission as documents CISPR/G (Central Office) 2, CISPR/G (Central Office) 5, CISPR/G (Central Office) 9, CISPR/G (Central Office) 11, CISPR/G (Central Office) 12, CISPR/G (Central Office) 13, and CISPR/G (Central Office) 14. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 USC §552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. Copies of these CISPR publications may be purchased from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Sales Department, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036, (212) 642-4900. Copies may also be inspected during normal business hours at the following

limits for power line conducted emissions. If a manufacturer chooses to use these limits, the manufacturer must also use:

- the CISPR 22 limits for radiated emissions up to 1000 MHz; and
- if necessary, the FCC limits for radiated emissions above 1000 MHz.

Given the international nature of the marketplace, most products produced by our member companies are already tested to the limits contained in CISPR Publication 22.

There are, however, situations when use of the CISPR standards has not been advantageous. Some systems are designed specifically for the U.S. marketplace. Extending the requirements for power line conducted emissions to include the frequency range of 150 kHz to 450 kHz would add cost to the testing of these products. There are many products currently on the market that would not meet the newly adopted standards. And there is no evidence that the continued manufacture and/or importation of these products would cause any harmful interference to licensed communications services.

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locations: (1) Federal Communications Commission, 2025 M Street, NW, Office of Engineering and Technology (Room 7317), Washington, DC, and (2) Office of the Federal Register, 800 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC. In addition:

(1) The test procedure and other requirements specified in this Part shall continue to apply to digital devices.

(2) If the conducted emissions are measured to demonstrate compliance with the alternative standards in this paragraph, compliance must also be demonstrated with the radiated emission limits shown in §15.109(g) of this Part.

Therefore, ITI requests the proposed transitional provisions be modified in one regard. Namely, existing products which have been qualified to the existing FCC limits for power line conducted emissions from 450 kHz to 30 MHz should be "grandfathered" indefinitely, and should not be required to meet the new limits, even after the three year period suggested in the NPRM.

Existing products that have already met the requirements in §15.107(a)[3] or §15.107(b)[4] should be given a permanent exemption. This approach would be preferable to the three year transition proposed in the NPRM.. This exemption would not apply to products once the design is updated or modified in a manner expected to require re-testing under existing guidelines in the

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[3] (a) Except for Class A digital devices, for equipment that is designed to be connected to the public utility (AC) power line, the radio frequency voltage that is conducted back onto the AC power line on any frequency or frequencies within the band 450 kHz to 30 MHz shall not exceed 250 microvolts. Compliance with this provision shall be based on the measurement of the radio frequency voltage between each power line and ground at the power terminals.

[4] (b) For a Class A digital device that is designed to be connected to the public utility (AC) power line, the radio frequency voltage that is conducted back onto the AC power line on any frequency or frequencies within the band 450 kHz to 30 MHz shall not exceed the limits in the following table. Compliance with this provision shall be based on the measurement of the radio frequency voltage between each power line and ground at the power terminals. The lower limit applies at the band edges.

Frequency of Emission (MHz)	Conducted Limit (microvolts)
0.45 - 1.705	1000
1.705 - 30.0	3000

Rules.[5] The Commission's only basis as stated in the NPRM for imposing a three year transition deadline is a belief that "most affected products would be redesigned within this three year time frame and that compliance with this proposal would not cause an unreasonable burden on industry." However, while many products may be redesigned, and thus require re-authorization in accordance with the new rules, others may not. There is no evidence that allowing the continued manufacture of such products will create any risk of harmful or objectionable interference after this three year period. On the other hand, mandating retesting could impose significant cost burdens on manufacturers, while utilizing scarce EMC testing resources that could otherwise be directed to designing and qualifying new products, rather than expended in re-testing existing products.

RECOMMENDATION

The Information Technology Industry Council recommends that the proposed changes to the FCC Rules be adopted, except that existing products which have already been qualified to the

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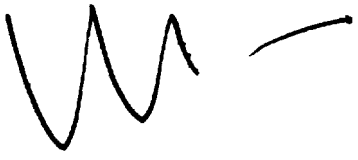
[5] Guidance on what changes would require a re-test when discussing changes to Certificated equipment is contained in the Commission's Rules in §2.1043(a), Changes in certificated equipment.

(a) Changes to the basic frequency determining and stabilizing circuitry (including clock or data rates), frequency multiplication stages, basic modulator circuit or maximum power or field strength ratings shall not be performed without application for and authorization of a new grant of certification. Variations in electrical or mechanical construction, other than these indicated items, are permitted provided the variations either do not affect the characteristics required to be reported to the Commission or the variations are made in compliance with the other provisions of this section.

current requirements in §15.107(a) or §15.107(b) of the Commission's Rules should be exempted from compliance with the new limits. This exemption would cease if their design is modified in a fashion that would normally require a re-test. At that time, compliance with the new limits would be required

CONCLUSION

ITI is pleased with the proposed change to the Commission's Rules, subject to the recommendation above. This change to use the international standard is in line with our stated support for the concept of One Standard-One Test, Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (1-1SDoC). We thank you for this opportunity to comment on this proposed change to the Rules.



Rhett Dawson, President
Information Technology Industry Council